

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) Battery-powered handpiece, ~~comprising~~ comprising:

(a) a housing;

(b) first and second charging contacts exposed on the housing, for connection to contacts of a battery contained within the housing; and

(c) a sensing contact positioned on the housing for detecting electrolytic current flow through a fluid film on the housing between [[a]] the first charging contact, for connection to a first contact of a battery, and [[a]] the second charging contact, for connection to a second contact of a battery.

33. (Previously presented) Battery-powered handpiece according to claim 32, further comprising a magnet co-operating with a magnetically activatable switch arranged in a charger device, for initiating a charging operation once the battery-powered handpiece is electrically connected to said charger device.

34. (Previously presented) Battery powered handpiece according to claim 33, wherein said magnet is arranged in proximity to the housing of the handpiece.

35. (Previously presented) Battery-powered handpiece according to claim 32, further comprising a diode located between said first charging contact and said first contact of said battery for allowing charging current to flow from said first charging contact into said battery but preventing current flow in opposite direction.

36. (Currently Amended) Charger device for a battery-powered handpiece, ~~comprising~~ comprising:

(a) a housing;

(b) first and second charging pins exposed on the housing and adapted to contact charging contacts on a handheld device; and

(c) a sensing pin on the housing for detecting at least one of (i) electrolytic current flow through a fluid film on the housing between [[a]] the first charging pin and [[a]] the second charging pin; and (ii) electrolytic current flow through a fluid film on the housing of a handheld device that is detected by a sensing contact of the handheld device.

37. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 36, further comprising a warning means for giving a warning signal if current flow between said first and second charging pins is sensed by said sensing pin.
38. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 37, wherein said warning means provides an acoustic and/or optical warning.
39. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 36, wherein said sensing pin of said charger device is in contact with a sensing pin at said handpiece if said handpiece is connected to the charger device so that said sensing pin at said charging device further detects current flow between first and second charging contacts of said handpiece, said current flow having a potential for initiating an electrochemical reaction.
40. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 36, further comprising an electronic switch connected to said sensing pins of said charger device for disconnecting a charging voltage applied to said first and second charging pins if current flow is sensed by said sensing pin.
41. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 36, further comprising a detector for detecting the presence or absence of said battery-powered handpiece and a switch for switching on/off the charging voltage dependent on detection of the presence/absence of said handpiece.
42. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 41, wherein said switch is selected from the group comprising mechanical switches, optical switches, electro-mechanical switches, electro-optical switches or magnetic switches.

43. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 42, wherein the magnetic switch comprises a magnetically activatable switch being operable in response to a magnet arranged in said handpiece.
44. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 43, wherein said magnetically activatable switch comprises a Reed switch.
45. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 41, said switch allowing a charging voltage to be applied to said charging pins in the presence of said handpiece.
46. (Currently Amended) In combination, a battery powered handpiece according to claim 32 and a charger device comprising: comprising a sensing pin detecting current flow between a first charging pin and a second charging pin, wherein the first charging pin is adapted for electrical connection to the first charging contact of the handpiece, and the second charging pin is adapted for electrical connection to the second charging contact of the handpiece (a) a charger housing; (b) first and second charging pins exposed on the charger housing and adapted to contact charging contacts on a handheld device; and (c) a sensing pin on the housing for detecting at least one of (i) electrolytic current flow through a fluid film on the housing between the first charging pin and the second charging pin; and (ii) electrolytic current flow through a fluid film on the housing of a handheld device that is detected by a sensing contact of a the handheld device.
47. (Previously presented) Battery-powered handpiece according to claim 32, wherein said handpiece is a dental tool.
48. (Previously presented) Battery-powered handpiece according to claim 47, wherein said dental tool is dental curing light.
49. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 36 adapted for use with a dental tool.
50. (Previously presented) Charger device according to claim 49, wherein said dental tool is dental curing light.

51. (New) In combination:

A. a battery powered handpiece comprising first and second charging contacts for connection to a battery contained within the handpiece, the charging contacts adapted for contact with a charger device; and

B. a charger device comprising (a) first and second charging pins adapted to contact charging contacts on the handheld device to charge a battery of the handpiece; and (b) a sensing pin adapted to contact the handpiece, whereby when current flow is detected by the sensing pin, charging voltage may be disconnected.

52. (New) The combination of claim 51, wherein the handpiece further comprises a sensing contact for contact with the sensing pin of the charger device.

53. (New) The combination of claim 52, wherein the sensing contact detects electrolytic current flow through a fluid film on a housing of the handpiece between the first charging contact and the second charging contact.